



**WILLIAM ROCKHILL  
NELSON GALLERY OF  
ART and MARY ATKINS  
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

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**GALLERY NEWS**



GALLERY NEWS

March

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Prompted by the desire to make the Gallery facilities available to as many Kansas Citians as possible during the emergency, an additional evening opening on Fridays is announced. This will begin on March 6th and will continue until the first of June. This will necessitate a new schedule of hours for Friday, namely the Gallery will not open to the public until one o'clock on Fridays, closing at five and will reopen at seven-thirty and remain open until ten. The usual twenty-five cents admission charge will prevail on Friday afternoons, but the Gallery will be free on Friday evenings.

Two special events will be scheduled for these Friday evening openings. At seven-forty-five, a member of the Staff will give a fifteen- to twenty-minute informal talk in a designated room and at eight-fifteen a concert by local artists or orchestras will be given in Atkins Auditorium. This will give adequate time for visiting the Gallery collections before closing. It is hoped that there will be a hearty response to this new service by the Gallery and that this opportunity will be taken to become better acquainted with our many treasures which have been augmented by so many superb loans. It has been found in war-torn England that attendance of museums has increased and it is hoped that this will be the case in Kansas City. Following is a list of the programs:

March 6 - 7:45, Gallery Talk: Van Gogh's  
"L'Arlesienne", Gallery 14  
8:15, Concert: Sebe Jean Sarsser,  
Cellist, Pupil of Raymond Stuhl.

March 14 - 7:45, Gallery Talk: The New  
Chinese Sculpture Gallery  
8:15, "The Persian Garden" by  
K.C. Conservatory of Music

March 20 - 7:45, Gallery Talk: Cezanne's "Pot of Geraniums with Fruit", Gallery 14-  
8:15, Concert by Kansas City W.P.A. Orchestra

March 27 - 7:45, Gallery Talk: The New Classical Wing.  
8:15, Concert, James Stanley, Baritone, of K.C. Conservatory of Music

THE MIDWESTERN EXHIBITION: The important Midwestern Exhibition, sponsored annually by the Kansas City Art Institute, will be hung this year in the central loan rooms of the Gallery. It will open on Sunday, March 1st and continue through March 31st.

The exhibition was judged by James S. Plaut, Director of the Institute of Modern Art of Boston. The following prizes were awarded:

Thomas J. Watson Prize for Painting: "Looking Backward" by Buff Haney.

W. T. Kemper, Jr., Purchase Prize for Sculpture: "Fragment Torso" by Sacha S. Schnittmann.

Honorable Mention in Painting, "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" by Donald Charpiot.

Mrs. D. M. Lighton Prize for Painting by Kansas City Artist: "Sunday Morning" by Jackson Lee Nesbitt.

Friends of Art Purchase Prize for Water Colour: "West of Atherton" by Paulina Everitt.

Albert J. Hoffmann Prizes for Graphic Art: "Shortie Wood Yard" by Hazel Fulton McGraw; "Paradise Lilies" by Marie Delleney.

Major T.J. Strickler Purchase Prize for Print: "Colorado Farm" by George Vander Sluis.

A popularity contest will be held while the exhibition is on view and visitors are asked to vote on blanks for their favorite painting, watercolour or print.

MASTERPIECE ROOM: "L'Arlesienne," acknowledged by all critics to be the greatest portrait painted by the expressionist, Vincent Van Gogh, has been lent to the Gallery anonymously for an indefinite period. It will be featured in the Masterpiece Room for the first two weeks of March.

It was painted in Arles, where Van Gogh arrived in February, 1888, and was at once blinded by the brilliant colours of Southern France, the charm and piquancy of the native women in their distinctive costumes. His temperament and disposition was not one to make friends and for a long time the townspeople looked with distrust upon this ferocious barbarian with his bristling red beard. Finally the postmaster Roulin befriended him and took him to his favorite café near the station. Here he met Madame Ginoux, the wife of the proprietor and persuaded her to pose for him. It was painted in November of 1888 when Gauguin was with him and he wrote his brother Theo of it: "I have an Arlesienne at last. A figure slashed on in an hour, background pale lemon, the face gray, the clothes black, black, black, with perfectly raw Prussia blue. She is leaning on a green table and seated in an armchair of orange wood."

It is one of the greatest portraits of all time. All the enigma and tragedy of Daudet's "L'Arlesienne" is encompassed in the strange face with its angular contours and strange eyes. It is interesting to contrast this head with that of a "Portrait of a Peasant Boy" in the permanent collection, painted in Neunen in 1884.

From the same collection, one of Paul Cezanne's largest and most monumental still-lives, "Pot of Geraniums with Fruit" has also been lent. It will be featured in the Masterpiece Room the last two weeks of March.

This was painted in the early 1890's, when the art of Cezanne had matured and ripened. He was now dividing his time between Aix and Paris with one brief visit with his wife to Switzerland. His health had begun to fail, but there is no indication in this serene and superb canvas. The colours are subtle and of an extraordinary harmony. The deep green of the leaves, the rose of the flowers, the red, green and orange fruit, the white of the napkin and the indescribable beauty of the blue-green background. The exuberant

of the colours are less sonorous, less deep than that of our landscape, "Montagne de Sainte Victoire". With the three Chinese canvases lent from the Phillips Collection, the Gallery now can present a comprehensive picture of this great artist, perhaps the greatest of the 19th century.

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES:

March 4: The Painter-Scholars; Emperor Sung Hui Tsung and the Academy. The Chinese ideal of the cultivated man is fully exemplified in a group of scholar-painters who lived at the end of the 11th century. These men were at once accomplished scholars, painters and poets as well as being high government officials. Such individuals are a unique product of Chinese civilization. The lecture will consider the work of these men and their important role in Chinese cultural history.

March 11: The Northern School of Painting. In this lecture the problem of the division of all Chinese landscape painting into two main schools will be discussed, with particular reference to the Northern School. This school of painting, that is distinguished by a more decorative and ornamental style, claims as its number one of its greatest painters of the unbroken continuity - Ma Yuan and Hsia Kuei. These two artists have had innumerable followers and their style, with its striking compositions and romantic appeal, is of all Chinese schools of painting the best known in Occidental countries.

March 18: The Southern School and the Ink Paintings of Contemplative Buddhism. In contrast to the dramatic and romantic quality of the Northern School, the Southern School painters concentrated upon the expressionistic and subjective nature of their work. The lecture will aim to point out these features, but the main subject will be the powerful school of monochrome ink-painting that developed in the Buddhist temples of Hang Chow during the thirteenth century.

March 25: Painters of the Mongol Dynasty and the Rise of the Military Style. With the advent of the Mongol conquerors in the 12th and 13th centuries, a new era begins in Chinese culture. A new attitude



was evolving that found its most complete expression in a style of painting that has become known as the "Literary Man's" style. In this style actual representation is so subordinated to brush-work and the quality of inner vitality that it is often difficult for Western observers to grasp the artist's intent. The lecture will endeavor to demonstrate the qualities of these paintings that are so much admired by Chinese critics.

#### GALLERY CHANGES:

Ceramics Room: In the second week of March and continuing until May 1st, a new installation of the Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Burnap Collection of English Pottery will be placed on exhibition in the Ceramics Room. The fourth in the chronological series, it will be devoted to the ever-popular Lustre Wares. The Burnap Collection is particularly rich in the field, containing over 300 examples.

Basically, Lustre Ware is earthenware decorated by thin layers of copper, gold or platinum. There is an unlimited variety of types, from the early crude ware of copper lustre, through the examples completely covered with silver lustre and, in an economic way, duplicating the more expensive sterling silver, the very personal gold and purple lustre of Josiah Wedgwood and the more familiar "resist" lustre.

All these are represented in the Burnap Collection. Perhaps the outstanding group is the Wedgwood Pearl Ware Shell Dessert Service of about 1792, beautiful in its glowing colours of gold, purple, rose and pearly tones. Especially fine also are the canary, blue and white examples of silver resist. These will make a particularly effective display in the delicate gray harewood cases of the Ceramics Room.

Whistler Etchings: The third group of Whistler Etchings from the famous Harris Whittemore Collection, has been hung in the print rooms and covers the years from 1872-1878.

This begins with a series of portraits of many members of the Leyland family, the wealthy merchant for whom Whistler designed the Peacock Room. There are also studies of many of his models. In these portraits, Whistler seems less happy than in his river views or architectural studies.

Sometime in 1875 he returned to his old love, the Thames River and such plates as "Ship-BUILDER'S Yard", "Steamships Off the Tower", "London Bridge" "Battersea, Dawn" and "Greenhithe" revive the charm and fascination of the popular Thames Set. It is interesting to note in this series how Whistler was progressing technically and how the exquisite line that marks the Venetian series is developing.

Loans From the Phillips Memorial Gallery: Several additional paintings from the Phillips Memorial Gallery have now been placed on exhibition. In the English gallery is a superb Constable landscape rich in tone and impasto, painted almost entirely with the palette knife. It depicts his favorite river, the Stour, and is a characteristic example of the greatest landscapist of the history of art.

A romantic portrait of the violinist Paganini by Delacroix and a swift, impressionistic study, "The Stone Breaker" by the pontilist Seurat, have been hung in Gallery 15. The latter makes a fine pendant for our Seurat study for "The Bathers"

FRIENDS OF ART: The first meeting in March of the study group of the Friends of Art will be on Thursday, March 5th, at eleven o'clock. The members will meet in the central loan gallery and the subject will be the Midwestern Exhibition. Members will be furnished blanks and will be asked to vote for their choice of the painting which should have received first prize.

On Thursday, March 19th, the group will meet in the Print Rooms where the Harris Whittemore Collection of Whistler Etchings will be discussed by the Director.



EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT: The Saturday afternoon programs for the month of March will include three picture shows and one Marionette Play. Of particular interest will be the program on Mexico scheduled for March 28th. In addition to the films on Old Spain and Mexico, there will be dances and folk songs by members of the Guadalupe Center group in their native dress.

The Marionette play on March 14th will be the Story of Isis and Osiris, based on a small figure of the latter Egyptian deity found in the Egyptian sculpture gallery.

The Little Museum: The exhibition for the month of March promises to be one of decided uniqueness. A collection of Cricket Cages generously given to the Nelson Gallery by Miss Fanny Pomeroy Brown has been lent to the Little Museum and will go on display Wednesday, March 4th and remain on exhibit throughout the month.

These cages are made from gourds, raised in moulds and with elaborate carved tops of ivory or tortoise shell. They date from the 17th to 19th centuries and were used in the Chinese hobby of raising crickets for singing and fighting. Included in the exhibit are traps, dishes, cleaning brushes and rats whiskers for tickling the fighting crickets.

#### CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Sun., Mar.	1	-	3:30	-	Concert	-	Robt. Schultz
Mon., "	2	-	4:00	-	Library	-	Oriental Art
Tues. "	3	-	2:00	-	Asiatic Study Group		
" "	3	-	4:00	-	Library	-	French Ptg.
Wed., "	4	-	8:00	-	Lecture	-	The Painter-Scholars, Mr. Sickman
Thurs., "	5	-	11:00	-	Mo. Music Teachers Reception & Concert		
" "	5	-	11:00	-	Loan Galleries	-	Friends of Art
" "	5	-	4:00	-	Library	-	French Ptg.

March

Fri.,	6	-	8:15	-	Concert - Sebe Jean Sarser
Sat.	7	-	3:00	-	Movie - "Mexican Children" & Gaudeloupe Center dancers
Sun.	8	-	3:30	-	Concert - WPA Orchestra
Mon.	9	-	4:00	-	Library - Oriental Art
Tues.	10	-	10:00	-	Library - Book Club
"	10	-	1:00	-	Library - Art Study Club
"	10	-	4:00	-	Library - French Painting
Wed.	11	-	10:00	-	Library - Minerva Delphians
"	11	-	8:00	-	Lecture - The Northern School of Painting - Mr. Sickman
Thurs.	12	-	10:00	-	Library - Socratic Delphians
"	12	-	4:00	-	Library - French Painting
Fri.	13	-	8:15	-	Concert - "Persian Garden"
Sat.	14	-	3:00	-	Marionette Play - "Isis and Osiris"
Sun.	15	-	3:30	-	Concert - Sigma Alpha Iota
Mon.	16	-	4:00	-	Library - Oriental Art
Tues.	17	-	2:00	-	Asiatic Study Group
"	17	-	4:00	-	Library - French Painting
Wed.	18	-	8:00	-	Lecture - The Northern School Mr. Sickman
Thurs.	19	-	11:00	-	Print Rooms - Friends of Art
"	19	-	4:00	-	Library - French Painting
Fri.	20	-	8:15	-	Concert - WPA Orchestra
Sat.	21	-	3:00	-	Movie - "Palestine" & "Cairo to the Pyramids"
Sun.	22	-	3:30	-	Concert - Pupils of Evaline Hartley
Mon.	23	-	4:00	-	Library - Oriental Art
Tues.	24	-	10:00	-	Library - Book Club
"	24	-	4:00	-	Library - French Painting
Wed.	25	-	10:00	-	Library - Minerva Delphians
"	25	-	8:00	-	Lecture - Painters of the Mongol Dynasty - Mr. Sickman
Thurs.	26	-	10:00	-	Library - Socratic Delphians
"	26	-	4:00	-	Library - French Painting
Fri.	27	-	8:15	-	Concert - James Stanley
Sat.	28	-	3:00	-	Movie - To be announced
Sun.	29	-	3:30	-	Concert - Hunt-Forsythe
Mon.	30	-	4:00	-	Library - Oriental Art
Tues.	31	-	4:00	-	Library - French Painting



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